## REMARKS

Claims 19 to 30, 40, 46 and 48 are pending in the application, with Claim 48 having been added. Claims 19, 40, 46 and 48 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 19 to 24, 26, 40 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,991,276 (Yamamoto) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,173,250 (Jong), and Claims 25 and 27 to 30 were rejected under § 103(a) over Yamamoto in view of Jong and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,404,747 (Berry). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns a control apparatus that distributes data among a plurality of communication terminals connected to the control apparatus, such as a first terminal that can communicate via voice data and second terminal that can communicate via text data but not voice data. According to the invention, the control apparatus recognizes voice data that has been entered by the first terminal to the control apparatus and generates text data based upon the recognized voice data. The control apparatus then distributes the text data generated from the recognized voice data, instead of the recognized voice data, to the second terminal, together with generated image data.

As a result, videoconferencing can be easily performed between different terminal types, such as videoconferencing terminals and personal computers, in a common video conferencing system since the control apparatus controls distribution of both voice data and text data among the different types of terminals.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 19 is a data communication control apparatus for controlling distribution of data among a plurality

of communication terminals connected to the control apparatus, the plurality of terminals including at least a first terminal which can communicate via voice data and a second terminal which can communicate via text data but not voice data, comprising an image generating device adapted to generate image data, a voice recognition device adapted to recognize voice data that has been entered to the data communication control apparatus from the first terminal and to generate text data based upon the recognized voice data, a control device adapted to control a way of distributing data corresponding to the plurality of connected communication terminals, and a data distributing device adapted to distribute the generated text data, instead of the recognized voice data, generated by the voice recognition device, to the second terminal with the image data.

Amended independent Claims 40, 46 and 48 are method, recording medium, and apparatus claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 19.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 19, 40, 46 and 48. In particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a control apparatus that recognizes voice data entered from a first terminal that can communicates via voice data, that generates text data based upon the recognized voice data, and that distributes the generated text data, instead of the recognized voice data, to a second terminal that can communicate via text data but not voice data.

Yamamoto is merely seen to disclose a video conference system that includes a plurality of video conference terminals, a video conference server and a video conference administrator. The Office Action admits that Yamamoto fails to disclose a voice recognition unit that recognizes voice data and that generates text data based upon

the recognized voice data. Therefore, Yamamoto fails to disclose or to suggest a control apparatus that recognizes voice data entered from a first terminal that communicates voice data and generates text data based upon the recognized voice data, and that distributes the generated text data, instead of the recognized voice data, to a second terminal that communicates text data, together with generated image data.

Jong is seen to disclose a system that provides for chat over the Internet. Speech input at a first computer on one side of the network is converted to text at the first computer, with the converted text being transmitted via the Internet to a second computer, where the received text may be displayed on a display of the second computer, or may be converted by the second computer into speech. Thus, in Jong, the computers at each end of the network are the same in that they both can communicate via voice data and text data. Accordingly, Jong does not address the problems associated with systems in which some computers can communicate via voice data, while other computers cannot and can only communicate via text. Moreover, there is one-to-one communication between the computers of Jong and therefore, Jong does not include a control apparatus to which a plurality of terminals are connected such that the control apparatus controls distribution of the data among the plurality of terminals. In other words, Jong can only distribute the text data from one computer directly to another and cannot distribute the text data among a plurality of connected terminals. Therefore, Jong is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a control apparatus, which communicates with both types of terminals, recognizes voice data entered from a first terminal that can communicate via voice data and generates text data based upon the recognized voice data, and that distributes the generated

text data, instead of the recognized voice data, to a second terminal that can communicate via text data but not voice data.

Moreover, any permissible combination of Yamamoto and Jong still would not have resulted in the present invention. In this regard, at best, Yamamoto and Jong would have resulted in the teleconferencing equipment of Yamamoto being able to convert speech data into text data and transmitting the text data directly from one videoconferencing machine to another (Jong's teaching). As such, a combination of Yamamoto and Jong still would not have disclosed or suggested at least the feature of a control apparatus that recognizes voice data entered from a first terminal that can communicates via voice data, that generates text data based upon the recognized voice data, and that distributes the generated text data, instead of the recognized voice data, to a second terminal that can communicate via text data but not voice data.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of Yamamoto and Jong, amended independent Claims 19, 40 and 46, as well as newly-added independent Claim 48 are believed to be allowable.

Berry is not seen to add anything to overcome the deficiencies of Yamamoto and Jong and is also not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a control apparatus that recognizes voice data entered from a first terminal that can communicates via voice data, that generates text data based upon the recognized voice data, and that distributes the generated text data, instead of the recognized voice data, to a second terminal that can communicate via text data but not voice data. Accordingly, all of Claims 19 to 30, 40, 46 and 48 are believed to be allowable over Yamamoto, Jong and Berry.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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